(c) the expenditure from Provincial funds on each of these training schools during 1930–31;

(d) the approximate cost of training a student for each of these schools for 1930–31; and

(e) whether there are any proposals for abolishing any of these schools in connexion with the proposals for retrenchment of public expenditure and amalgamating the classes in those schools with the classes of neighbouring schools?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) The hon. Member is referred to the subsidiary tables at pages 130–132 of Part II of Volume II of the Report on Public Instruction for 1929–30. Information for 1930–31 is not available.

(*e*) The answer is in the negative.

Personnel of the Board of Examiners for Shorthand and Typewriting.

* 360 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) who are the members of the Board of Examiners for Shorthand and Typewriting;

(*b*) what is the principle underlying the selection of the Board of Examiners and the Assistant Examiners; and

(*c*) what are the qualifications of Assistant Examiners in each case?

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) The information asked for is confidential.

(*b*) When selecting examiners and assistant examiners, particular account is taken of their knowledge and practical experience, their status and their capacity to discharge the responsible work entrusted to them.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know the qualifications which decide the selection of these examiners?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" Oh yes; they must have knowledge of the subjects, practical experience, and they must have the capacity to discharge their responsible work as examiners."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" Is it not a fact that thoroughly unqualified people are examiners now?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" No, Sir."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar:—" Of the present examiners, how many are Brahmans and how many are non-Brahmans?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I am not prepared to disclose who are all the examiners, nor can I give the communities to which they belong."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" Is it a fact that not less than two have been there for seven or eight years as examiners?"

31st October 1931]

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I cannot say".

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Is it the policy of the Government that one or two people should have the monopoly of these examinerships?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"It is not the policy of the Government, Sir."

Government technical examinations in shorthand and typewriting.

* 361 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased—

(*a*) to place on the table of the House a statement showing the number of candidates who appeared for the Government examinations in shorthand and typewriting (both lower and higher grades) for the last ten years districtwar and the number of candidates who came out successful;

(*b*) to state the number of candidates who appeared and came out successful in the Government examinations in shorthand and typewriting (lower and higher) held in April 1931; and

(*c*) the reasons for the increase or decrease in the percentage of candidates who were successful for the last three years?

A.—(*a*) The lower and higher grades were introduced only with effect from April 1924. The printing of the statement required will be expensive. A statement in manuscript is available for inspection.

(*b*) The figures are given below:—

Subject.	Lower.		Higher.	
	Number examined.	Number passed.	Number examined.	Number passed.
Shorthand ..	702	46	118	Nil
Typewriting ..	1,918	386	217	29

(*c*) The results in 1929 were not unsatisfactory. For 1930 and April 1931 they were bad, particularly in Shorthand. The valuation was strictly in accordance with the rules and few candidates reached the required standard.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know whether the Government will enquire into the reasons why there has been such a huge failure, especially in shorthand?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Yes, Sir; they have enquired. The reason that they have been able to discover is that in previous years the examiners were very lenient and this year the examiners have been strict."